

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170040
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RCEWING:LB/BLH

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EUR:GSVEST

S/S:PTARNOFF

AMB. KUBISCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170040

STADIS//////////

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GR, US

SUBJECT: GREEK GOVERNMENT REQUEST THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE
SCHAUFLE'S APPOINTMENT BE WITHDRAWN: INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE
FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS

1. YOU SHOULD SEEK AN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
BITSIOS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME AND CONVEY FOLLOWING
ORAL MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY. YOU MAY LEAVE NON-PAPER
CONTAINING TEXT OF MESSAGE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE SUGGESTION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT
WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION OF AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE TO GREECE
AND THAT, IF THIS WERE NOT DONE, THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WOULD
DECLARE HIM UNWELCOME HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH ASTONISHMENT
IN WASHINGTON. I MUST TELL YOU IN ALL FRANKNESS OF OUR
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STRONG FEELING THAT THE REACTION IN GREECE HAS BEEN UN-
WARRANTED BY WHAT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE INTENDED AND SAID TO
OUR SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THUS, THE U.S.
GOVERNMENT WILL NOT AT THIS TIME WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION OF
AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE. HOWEVER, AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE DOES
NOT AT PRESENT HAVE ANY PLANS TO TRAVEL TO ATHENS. I WOULD
THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE NOT TAKE

ANY FORMAL ACTION. I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER PERSONALLY WITH YOU WHEN WE ARE BOTH IN NEW YORK IN LATE

SEPTEMBER FOR THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I VERY MUCH BELIEVE THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE THE MATTER AT THAT TIME. END TEXT ORAL MESSAGE.

3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST INTENDS TO CONVEY TO GREEK AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS COPY ORAL MESSAGE AFTER YOU CONFIRM THAT MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO BITSIOS.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RESPOND ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO PRESS QUESTIONS CONCERNING SCHAUFLE APPOINTMENT BUT IS DECLINING ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON MATTER AT THIS TIME:

QTE: QUESTION: GREEK PAPERS ARE REPORTING THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE U.S. THAT SCHAUFLE'S NAME BE WITHDRAWN AS AMBASSADOR. CAN YOU CONFIRM THIS?

ANSWER: WE HAVE CONSULTED CLOSELY WITH THE GREEK GOVERNMENT IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT WE REGARD AS AN UNFORTUNATE MISINTERPRETATION IN GREECE OF REMARKS AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE MADE DURING HIS CONFIRMATION HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST WEEK. I DON'T WANT TO COMMENT FURTHER ON DETAILS AT THIS TIME.

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QUESTION: HAS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ABOUT AMBASSADOR SCHAUFLE'S REMARKS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE?

ANSWER: YES. WE EXPLAINED THAT SCHAUFLE HAD ONLY SOUGHT TO CONVEY THAT THE AEGEAN DISPUTE WAS A COMPLEX AND DIFFICULT MATTER TO RESOLVE, INVOLVING A VARIETY OF CONSIDERATIONS. HE DID NOT SEEK TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE MATTER IN ANY WAY.

QUESTION: IS SCHAUFLE STILL IN WASHINGTON?

ANSWER: YES. UNQTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
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INSTRUCTIONS TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS
TAGS: PDIP, GR, US, (SCHAUFELLE, WILLIAM E JR)
To: ATHENS
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